moment is 1.96 per cent which is insignificant in the context of the size of our industry and that of our exports.

As far as staff is concerned, it is true that one post of Research Officer in this particular Department is vacant. Several times we have already approached and reminded the UPSC to get this post filled. We will pursue it in view of what the House has said now.

Production of Alcohol out of Molasses

*66. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to lift restrictions on price and movement of molasses in the country.

(b) if so, whether Government have examined in depth, the socially retrograde angle of such a decontrol in view of the possibility of diversions of freely available molasses for potable alcohol i.e. illicit liquor production which is more remunerative than industrial alcohol ; and

(c) whether Government propose to re-examine the issue in its entirety ?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c) All angles including diversion of molasses for potable alcohol are being taken into account while arriving at a final decision on whether to lift controls on price and movement of molasses.

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Sir, I would like to say that the answer which he has given to my question is incomplete. I just want a specific answer from the Hon. Minister. Will the Government lift the restriction on the price and movement of molasses in the country ?

Part (b) of my question is this. The Indian sugar industry has a very strong lobby protecting the industry both in the private sector and the cooperative sector, whereas none of the lobbies attempt to serve the interest of cane-growers. The cane-growers complain of inadequate support price for cane as also delayed payments both by the private and the co-operative sectors.

Sir, a very important bye-product of the sugar industry is molasses. The Government has been considering whether to decontrol the distribution, pricing and movement of molasses or not. If it is decontrolled, the sugar industry will have a free hand to sell molasses in the seller's market, serving the potable Indian made foreign liquor industry, at the cost of industrial alcohol production. A part of the molasses meant for the IMFL finds its way to the illicit liquor industry in active connivance with the IMFL industry.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government would constitute a watch-dog committee to monitor allotment of molasses to the IMFL industry and make the IMFL producers accountable for its diversion into illicit trade.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : May I update this answer a bit, Sir, in the sense that last evening Government has decided in principle to lift the restrictions on the movement and price of molasses ? Therefore, I will require some time to come before the House and make a statement in this House perhaps if you direct me, for giving the details. In the meanwhile, all the suggestions on different aspects that have been made by the Member now, definitely Government will take into account.

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : My second supplementary is this. Many social organisations and women activist organisations have been waging battles over the arrack and illicit liquor trade

* Translation in Arabic Script.

in the States, as it adversely affects the social well-being of the poor while draining out their low earnings. Has the Government, while entertaining the request from the sugar industry for decontrol of molasses, ever considered it proper to give a hearing to social welfare organisations and women activist groups also ? Will the Government consider the demands of women activists for ban on the sale of molasses in the States where liquor has been banned, especially arrack has been banned, like Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

Part (b) of my question is this. I would like to know from the Government whether they have got any alternative arrangement, especially in the States of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh where the Governments have planned to ban the sale of arrack and today, wherein a huge population of Scheduled Tribes and backward classes is involved in producing and selling today. I would like to know whether the Government has got any alternative programmes for the people who will be rendered jobless after the ban.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : My Ministry does not deal with these particular subjects of liquor and arrack. As I have said, decontrol on the movement of molasses is absolutely in line with the new economic policy. It is absolutely in the right direction. Removal of the controls helps the economic development and puts this particular aspect in line with the right directions of the economic policy. As I said in the process of anything being done in the right direction, we must see that if any other problems are created, they are either minimised or are eliminated. That we shall see. As I said you kindly permit me to go into this matter and come before the House with a comprehensive statement.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : State Governments are issuing licences. I am just drawing attention because this is a burning issue with the women in this country. I am leading this movement.

श्री सोमपाल : सभापति महोदय, चीनी मिलों द्वारा उत्पादित शीरे के ऊपर जो कीमतों का नियंत्रण है उसको बहुत पहले सरकार को हटा देना चाहिए था, मैं सरकार को बधाई देना चाहता हूं कि यह निर्णय उन्होंने कर दिया। चीनी उद्योग को इस निर्णय से बहुत बड़ा लाभ होगा, पर मैं प्रधान मंत्री महोदय से यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि इतना बड़ा लाभ क्योंकि साढ़े 12 रुपए क्विंटल शीरा नियंत्रित दाम के ऊपर उद्योगों को दिया जाता था और अब इसके दाम 125 रुपए क्विंटल के हिसाब से मिलेंगे अर्थात् 10 गुने के करीब, तो इसमें से जितना लाभ उद्योग को होगा उसमें किसानों को जोकि मूलरूप से गन्ने का उत्पादन करता है, क्या उसको भी इस लाभ को ट्रांसफर किया जाएगा या उनको इसमें से कुछ हिस्सा दिया जाएगा कि नहीं न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य के रूप में मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं ?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : I would submit that this concerns another Ministry. Will you kindly consider my plea ? This was the decision taken just last evening. We have to work out the modalities. I would like to take the House into confidence in all the details in this matter. Therefore, you may kindly keep the supplementaries for a later date I will come to the House and give all the clarifications.

श्री सोमपाल: सभापति जी, मैंने प्रधान मंत्री जी से जानना चाहा था कि वह इसका लाभ किसानों को देंगे कि नहीं देंगे ?

मौलाना अब्दुल्ला खान आजमी: सर, शराब के सिलसिले में मैं आप से यह कहना चाहता हूं कि इसका नाम ही शराब है । "श" और "आब" दोनों को अगर अलग कर दिया जाए तो फसाद फैलाने का पानी इसका तरजुमा होता है। शराब यानी फसाद फैलाने का पानी और अगर इस फसाद फैलाने वाले पानी से हमारी सरकार कुछ पैसा कमा भी लेती हो तो उसके जरिए देश और आवाम को कितना बड़ा नुकसान होता है इसे लोग अच्छी तरह जानते हैं। इस सिलसिले में आंध्रप्रदेश में जबर्दस्त प्रोटेस्ट हुआ । औरतें घर चलाती हैं, उन्होंने जबर्दस्त लीड किया क्योंकि

उनके शौहर, उनके बच्चे, उनका खानदान इस बुराई के कारण किस तरह बर्बाद होता है, इस बर्बादी को देश भली-भांति जानता है। इसके कारण मुल्कभर में बर्बादियों का एक सिलसिला जारी है और अगर इस शराब को नहीं रोका गया और इससे आमदनी के बजाय देश के लोगों के हितों को बचाने के लिए अगर पॉलिसी नहीं बनायी गयी तो मैं समझता हूं कि यह फसाद का पानी मुसलसल पूरे देश की अजमत को बहाकर ले जाएगा। इसलिए मैं पूछना यह चाहता हूं कि महात्मा गांधी ने भी नशाबंदी के खिलाफ जबर्दस्त तरीके से हिमायत करते हुए इसको खत्म करने के लिए बात कही थी तो आवाम के इस नुकसान को देखते हुए क्या सरकार इस पर पाबंदी लगाकर देश के लोगों को तबाही से बचाने का कोई प्रोग्राम रखती है?

مولانا عبیدللہ خان اعظمی :
سر۔ شراب کے سلسلے میں میں آپ سے یہ کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ اس کا نام ہی شراب ہے۔ ''شر'' اور ''آب'' دونوں کو اگر الگ کردیا جائے تو فساد پھیلانے کا پانی اس کا ترجمہ ہوتا ہے۔ شراب یعنی فساد پھیلانے کا پانی اور اگر اس فساد پھیلانے والے پانی سے ہماری سرکار کچھ پیسہ کما بھی لیتی ہو تو اسکے ذریعہ دیش اور عوام کو کتنا بڑا نقصان ہوتا ہے اسے لوگ اچھی طرح جانتے ہیں۔ اس سلسلے میں آندھرا پردیش میں زبردست پروٹیسٹ ہوا۔ عورتیں گھر چلاتی ہیں۔ انھوں نے زبردست لیڈ کیا۔ کیونکہ انکے شوہر۔ انکے بچے انکا خاندان اس برائی کے کارن کسطرح برباد ہوتا ہے اس بربادی کو دیش بھلی بھانتی جانتا ہے۔ اسکے کارن ملک بھر میں ایک بربادیوں کا سلسلہ جاری ہے اور اگر اس شراب کو نہیں روکا گیا اور اس سے آمدنی کے بجائے دیش کے لوگوں کے ہتوں کو بچانے کے لئے اگر پالیسی نہیں بنائی گئی تو میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ یہ فساد کا پانی مسلسل پورے دیش کی عظمت کو بہاکر لے جائے گا۔ اس لئے میں پوچھنا یہ چاہتا ہوں کہ مہاتما گاندھی نے بھی نشہ بندی کے خلاف زبردست طریقہ سے حمایت کرتے ہوئے اس کو ختم کرنے کے لئے بات کہی تھی تو عوام کے اس نقصان کو دیکھتے ہوئے کیا سرکار اس پر پابندی لگاکر دیش کے لوگوں کو تباہی سے بچانے کا کوئی پروگرام رکھتی ہے۔

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : This question does not concern this aspect. As I submitted, Sir, I will come with a statement at an appropriate time.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : I congratulate the Minister for taking the House into confidence in announcing the policy of the Government in decontrolling molasses. I believe this decontrol of molasses is being done in a hasty manner. It requires a fresh look. In Andhra Pradesh; the Government of Andhra Pradesh issued 12 licences for the manufacture of Arrack—distillary licences. Sir, licences are given on the plea that molasses would be decontrolled. The licensees would secure molasses for their factories from the open market. The Excise Minister in Andhra Pradesh had to resign because of the opposition to it from various quarters. Now the whole matter is being inquired into by a Senior Judge as to how the licences were issued. If molasses is decontrolled, naturally, this will go into the manufacture of illicit liquor. In Andhra Pradesh, the Government have already announced that they are going to introduce prohibition from the month of October, 1993 This movement against consumption of arrack, this movement for prohibition is gaining ground in almost all the States of the country. We have seen this kind of movement in Haryana.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude and ask your question now.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : I am coming to the point.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House knows this background.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : I am addressing this question to the Prime Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whoever you may address, you address your question.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : The Miniter has stated that the Government of India have already taken a decision to decontrol molasses. Therefore, I would like to know from the Prime Minister, whether he is going to review the policy on decontrol of molasses. That is my specific question. I am addressing this question to the Prime Minister because the concerned Minister has already expressed his inability to answer this question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Would you like to answer ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : Within sixteen hours of taking a decision, he wants us to review it.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : In view of the prevailing circumstances in the country, this is a hasty decision. I think there is every reason for the Government to review its decision.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : The sense of the House and of the country is that control on this particular subject must go generally, that is, 20 per cent. However, the point of the Hon. Member is well taken.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : This is really too much.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : Let me complete. I respect the view of the Hon. Member and also the views expressed by many Hon. Members here. They are well taken. We will see that some evils do not arise as a result thereof. What I am submitting and what I would like to do is that early next week, I will have a meeting with the Members who have raised this issue and find out what in way we can work it out and see that these evils are eliminated or they are substantially reduced. I will do that.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in pursuance of the policy of liberalisation, I am glad that

the Government of India has decontrolled molasses on its price and movement. I would like to compliment the Government. This scheme, however, has been hurt because the State Governments have imposed their own controls and instructions in some form or the other. Therefore, my question is : Will the Government of India take adequate safeguards and take ample measures so that the State Governments do not impose their own restrictions and their own controls ?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO . We have taken legal advice on the decision of the Supreme Court as well as on this matter. They say that in this particular respect, States cannot impose controls which have been removed by the Union.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Q. No. 67

Hiking the prices of cars

*67. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA†:

SHRI P. UPENDRA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Maruti Udyog Limited and other car manufacturers have taken a decision to hike prices during 1993-94, if so, the details on this regard ;

(b) what has been the production of cars during the years 1991-92 and 1992-93 together with the profits earned by each car manufacturer during that period and estimated production during 1993-94 ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the manufacturers propose to export their cars during 1993-94 after making some modifications in their vehicles so as to earn foreign exchange; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

†THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) There is no statutory price control on automobiles. Government is not aware of any decision by the car manufacturers to hike prices of their cars during the year 1993-94. However, with the reduction in excise duty on cars in the budget 1993-94, all the major car manufacturers in the country have announced reduction in prices.

(b) The production of major car manufacturers during the year 1991-92 and 1992-93 has been :

	1991-92	1992-93
(i) Maruti Udyog	1,16,697	1,22,105
(ii) Hindustan Motors	16,043	21,848
(iii) Premier Automobiles	32,563	15,342

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Shiv Pratap Mishra.